

02910.000086



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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|-----------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| In re Application of: |) | |
| | : | Examiner: Hoan H. Tran |
| ATSUSHI NUMAGAMI, ET AL. |) | |
| | : | Group Art Unit: 2852 |
| Application No.: 10/671,521 |) | |
| | : | Notice of Allowance: March 29, 2005 |
| Filed: September 29, 2003 |) | Confirmation No. 9107 |
| | : | |
| For: PROCESS CARTRIDGE AND |) | |
| ELECTROPHOTOGRAPHIC | : | |
| IMAGE FORMING |) | |
| APPARATUS | : | June 29, 2005 |

Mail Stop Issue Fee
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Attention Docket Clerk: Code REAS

Comment on Statement of Reasons for Allowance

Sir:

The Statement of Reasons for Allowance that accompanied the March 29, 2005 Notice of Allowance states that "None of the prior art of record teaches or suggests a process cartridge having on one end side, which is a tip end side in a direction in which the process cartridge is

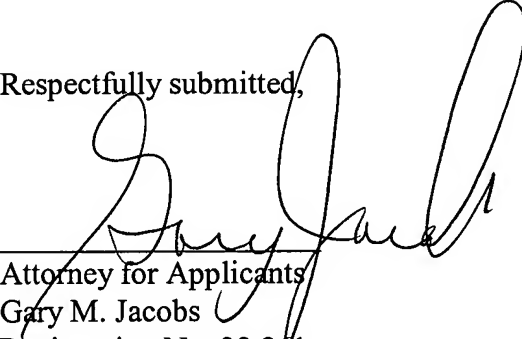
mounted in the main body of an image forming apparatus, including a first fit portion, a second fit portion, and a cartridge electrical contact; wherein a timing to engage the first fit portion with a first support member of the main body of the image forming apparatus, a timing to engage the second fit portion with a second support member of the main body of the image forming apparatus, and a timing to engage the cartridge electrical contact with a contact pin of the main body of the image forming apparatus, are staggered when the process cartridge is mounted in the main body of the image forming apparatus.”

But independent Claims 1 and 11 do not recite the language that the timings of engagement of a first fit portion, a second fit portion, and a cartridge electrical contact with portions of a main body of an image forming apparatus are staggered when the process cartridge is mounted in the main body of the image forming apparatus.

Nevertheless, these claims are allowable for the unique combination of features recited therein.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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